GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1237
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2002
HUMAN RIGHTS VALUES
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to sensitize the police and central para-military forces in human rights values;

(b) the steps being taken to spread human rights awareness among the masses, especially tribals through funding of NGOs and Public Activist Group;

(c) whether the Government provides access to international journalists, diplomats and human rights groups as a matter of ensuring transparency in its human rights policies; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a): Instructions have been issued and reiterated to all concerned from time to time including Paramilitary forces, to ensure that they conduct themselves in a humane manner and that the alleged cases of human rights violation are taken serious note of, inquiries made promptly and firm action taken against those found guilty. Considerable emphasis has also been laid on Police training. The Central Paramilitary forces have made teaching and training of human rights an integral and essential part of the training. In the Border Security Force, a booklet containing various DO`s and DON`Ts in simple language has been issued to all the field formations for further dissemination of the contents of Human Rights down to the Constabulary level. The Bureau of Police Research & Development has also been making steady and sustained efforts to sensitize police personnel at all levels on the issue of human rights and custodial crimes by introducing inputs in police training programme and by holding seminars, discussions and debates on issues relating to Human Rights.

(b): Government has drawn up a National Plan for Human Rights Education, which would be implemented in the current year. The Plan would involve funding of NGOs and other organizations involved in spread of human rights education to ensure awareness of human rights amongst all sections of the society.

(c) & (d): The Government has been open in its policy on human rights matters and with this end in view has encouraged visits of foreign nationals, including Parliamentarians and diplomats to various parts of the Country. Government of India has also cooperated fully with the Human rights mechanisms established by the United Nations and has been providing prompt information in respect of specific complaints of alleged human rights violation, received through these mechanisms.